

HARRY GRAYSTONE TIME DETECTIVE PART ONE

BY
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HE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY MEET

DEAN YAGER I'm bored with marking old test papers .
WILKO STONE BLUNTS SCISSORS
DEAN YAGER PAPER RAPS STONE
Dean YAGER I WIN Oh look, your card says that young Lancaster has a son
enrolling in our college for a postgraduate course .
WILKO Send him to NEWTOWN, and let him research VICTOR .
DEAN YAGER His father did the same thing and spun a yarn about ghosts helping
police with their enquiries .

OVER IN NEWTOWN

Gilbert Ratchet's wife Gloria stands and cheers out loud, at the town hall, where
Constance Fridge finishes a speech about moral laxity and the permissive society.
CONSTANCE It is the duty of our council to show us how to bring up kids without
being solicited with moral rectitude and permissiveness with Alcopops.
The crowd at this woman's guild meeting lapped up Constance's brand of shock tactics
blended with sly suggestion of returning to Victorian values .
CONSTANCE And I would like to count on your vote in the upcoming council
elections.

MAVIS The amount of gone off junk food in my refrigerator you get my vote
Gloria

THE CROWD GOES WILD

As Gloria leaves the town hall ,a light drizzle starts.
She turns off from high street towards the bus garage near Ipswich's one way system.
Gloria crosses the road and walks into Ipswich bus garage, and checks the time of the
Number 19 bus out of town, before going to buy her weekly bus pass at a kiosk. As she
puts down her handbag, a man snatches the bag and makes off out the nearest exit
brushing past her lightly on the way. "hey, that's my bag you scoundrel" hollers while
other customers give chase.
The security guard takes to his heels after the scoundrel and jumps over the wall of the
multi story car park and over the bonnet of a black trans-am charging up the first ramp
then dodging a mercedes making a high speed getaway>>>
He phoned his manager
PATY CURBIE get back to the bus station and wait for 5-0
PHILL Oh yeah guv book him DANNO, that was STEVE MAGARETT, and it
was in HAWAII, this is IPSWICH Guv
PATY CURBIE OF THE SOUTH LONDON BOUNCING ACADEMY- SOUTH NORWOOD
I'll buy you lunch if you are helpful and polite to the nice officer when he arrives, i got
my reputation to think off
PHIL OH YEAH , say goodbye to the nice officer SUMARIA

The ticket office girl phones the police, and Gloria waits for them to arrive. One hour later Detective Superintendent HARRY GRAYSTONE is called into his commander's blue room to accept a new assignment.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT NUGENT Pull up a chair HARRY and I'll brief you about your new assignment.

As HARRY closes the door of the blue room a faint humming sound starts and he crosses to the large oak desk.

GRAYSTONE What have you got for me chief.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT NUGENT Would you like two slices of toast or just a cup of tea The walls of the blue room are completely soundproof HARRY.

With that he opens the draw of his desk and presses the button on his stereo. The room resonates to the sound of a CARPENTERS CLASSIC "WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN"

HARRY GRAYSTONE Oh I caught that greengrocer selling gone off beetroot

SUPERINTENDENT NUGENT I've a purse snatcher for you to catch Detective. Wouldn't normally give this to the flying squad but the victim has friends with the town council and chairs neighborhood watch and I promised I'd take charge.

HARRY GRAYSTONE Oh we must keep the customers happy chief

NUGENT Go see control and get the details and then i've booked you an appointment with an old partner of mine. He is waiting for you at the ARNDALE CENTRE.

HARRY GRAYSTONE oH IF YOU WANT A CUP OF TEA THE SUGAR CUBE IS ON A PIECE OF STRING ABOVE THE COUNTER, DUNK IT IN TWICE AND HANG IT UP FOR THE NEXT NICE OFFICER

NUGENT Yes and i have a memo saying a wren from the BRITISH NAVY is on assignment to the flying squad DETECTIVE. I might put her with you .

HARRY GRAYSTONE SINCE WE CHANGED from the truncheon to the new French baton my wife keeps it under the bed for when I'm on nights

NUGENT comfort for he is it your old truncheon

HARRY GRAYSTONE ya for when I'm on night' s , just in case a burglar gets in though not to relieve sexual frustration

NUGENT JUST GET OUT OF HERE DETECTIVE>?>>

When HARRY closes the door of the blue room the humming stops and CARPENTERS can be heard no more. He crosses the flying squad office and walks down the corridor while checking his watch against the main clock hanging above the entrance. Just enough time to wrap these meetings up and clock off before the pub's open.

At control PC Nina Cherry hands him a dossier containing the details of his new assignment

HARRY GRAYSTONE what's this salvador dali's bar mitzvah pictures

NINA CHERRY **Ya the one about the baby elephant that gets his arse spanked,**

glad you got a tough assignment at last aren't you HARRY, they are THE RATCHET FAMILY

HARRY GRAYSTONE i'LL GO ROUND AND INTERVIEW GLORIA

NINA CHERRY **yes you do that and I'll meet you at the SLUG and LETTUCE this evening .**

GRAYSTONE

PROMISES PROMISES

His VAUXHALL ASTRA panda car is waiting in one of the parking bays and he makes his way across the concrete floor, opens the door, climbs in and starts the engine.

GILBERT opens the door for him saying [thank you for coming so swiftly , I was ust in the garden repotting some herbs, Gloria is in the living room]

GRAYSTONE LAY ON MCDUFF

First stop is to see Gloria at the RATCHET HOUSE in Lascelles Terrace .

TheY take the door on the right into the living room with large bay windows.

GLORIA Thank you for coming, Detective, it's a poor show when a woman can't walk in a public place and worry about getting her purse snatched.

HARRY Yes I agree with you. Can you describe the attacker for me?

GLORIA He had a leather jacket on and a black cap with blue jeans . I didn't get a good look at his face as there was a mustache and he ran off at lightning speed.

HARRY It seems that the tach was a fake and came off halfway around the ring road as he got on a motorbike and started the engine.

GILBERT So he had a disguise and was on his own . must be a fast runner as some young lad gave chase and he managed to start his bike and get away.

HARRY That's all I have to go on at the moment and I have to advise you that he could be long gone without any means of catching him. We did not get a license plate match and after checking CCTV the trail goes cold when he makes his getaway.

GILBERT Worse things happen at sea detective and the cash cards can be replaced , but my wife had her jewelry in there worth £200.

HARRY Finishes writing in his notebook and is led out into the hallway .

HARRY I'm still waiting on a forensics report from the scene of the crime and I've got an all points bulletin on the description of the bugger so just hang tight dear and I'll report back soon OK.

GILBERT I'll let you out then, detective , really nice to meet you , and we both hope you catch the thief.

HARRY HEAVEN DON'T COME CHEAP YOU KNOW

After Gilbert let's detective HARRY GRAYSTONE out the door he makes a phone call to his new psychiatrist saying "Veronica must have another appointment with that renowned psychiatrist HARRY Shriner as my marriage is reaching a crisis.

VERONICA HAMSTER i'll have the ice and a slice ready for you mister Ratchet and warm up the floatation tanks for after as per usual, shall we say tomorrow afternoon.

Checking his watch as he climbs into his ASTRA panda car HARRY starts the engine and drives towards town center for his next assignment. He sips from a bottle of pepsi while negotiating the ring road and heads for the ARNDALE CENTRE. Grabbing a free paper from a vendor at the main door he enters the SHOPPING CENTRE past INTERFLORA AS the shops START to open he can smell fresh bread wafting from the deli counter.

Sir PATRICK RICHARD, the janitor has just got to the front of ASDA with his mop and bucket and as HARRY walks past **he deposits the empty coke bottle in the bin.**

There is a 2 liter of orange juice spilling all over the floor and in need of mopping up. Then he enters the café, where CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BIGWIG JOHNSON is waiting for him.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BIGWIG JOHNSON One lump or two HARRY.

HARRY I'll have a medium latte with cream and cinnamon sprinkle.

He sits down next to a large black man in a black uniform made out of fuzzy Felt, with

silver buttons going down the front.

CHIEF BIGWIG I've a new assignment for you HARRY.

HARRY GRAYSTONE I've still got that purse snatcher case on my desk chief, and that could take up my time for the next week. The chief wants me to apply for a regional crime squad.

CHIEF BIGWIG Hang fire on the bloody sneak thief, he is probably a townie on steroids, who runs faster than an Olympic athlete. What I'm talking about shall be unofficial, and It shall be Kept out of the prying eyes of internal affairs.

HARRY Yes, NUGENT can stand during the ceremony as much as he likes. My tray is stacked up to the artexed ceiling. I'll have to keep the chief sweet though , how much of this is official.

CHIEF BIGWIG This is not for the sergeant to scrutinize with his pencil sharpener HARRY, it's a favor for us at the Regional Crime squad.

HARRY Alright then the chief ran it by me.

CHIEF BIGWIG I've got a man coming from London who does not know the area. You are to meet him when he arrives and take him up to the RUNE STONE.

HARRY So that's it then , just that then , nothing I'll be caught out on.

CHIEF BIGWIG He happens to come from LEEDS UNIVERSITY and has just finished his second year in biology. His father is in my lodge.. This is a special favor I'm asking you to do for me and it will mean extra brownie points to add to your unofficial portfolio.The GRAND ORDER OF WATERBUFFELLO'S tailored this mock policeman's suit out of children's fuzzy felt just for me to where on my days off.

HARRY GRAYSTONE I'm an up and coming superintendent, chief, anyway who is this guy and why does he need a chaperone.

YOUR UP AND COMING WITH ME BACKING YOU, but just like the rest of them , your career scares you out of getting your feet wet, lad.

HARRY WELL GIVE ME THE DETAILS if I've a choice and I might volunteer.

Alright then son, If you're not sure about the validity of what I'm asking you to do, I'll put you in touch with an old partner of mine.

The chief swigs his tea and wags his finger at him, ". I was expecting this resistance.

CHIEF BIGWIG I've been in charge of many lads like you in my time, but I can tell by knowing if they are made of the right stuff.

HARRY I'M TOP OF THE CLASS BIGWIG

CHIEF BIGWIG So I've chosen you to meet a retired Commander that was involved thirty years ago , and spoke to me as I'm confiding in you.

HARRY Alright chief, if you want me to go on this fool's errand, then I'll have to accept, though I fail to understand how taking some kid up to a druid circle is police work.

JOHNSON Wild goose chases are part of the job description

CHIEF BIGWIG I can't tell you any more as you might doubt my sanity, don't forget I'm risking just as much as you by confiding in you right now. It's not normal procedure HARRY, but it might get you results. I would not be here today, as your commander without what I call Operation VICTOR.

HARRY GRAYSTONE So first it's me asking to see a retired Detective and then meet a student at the railway station, that's it for now cos i got a case load already.

CHIEF BIGWIG That student is a direct descendant of the laird of this manor dating back to the old Saxon times. His family owned the stone circle and allowed pagan ceremonies to be conducted right up till the English civil war, when they were outlawed.

HARRY GRAYSTONE QUITE RIGHT TO .

HARRY GRAYSTONE So you pop along to the PASS THE MARMALADE retirement home and see my old partner Roger Figgis. He retired ten years ago and is living in this exclusive home in the suburbs. Go and ask him about VICTOR, JUST THAT. He will understand and explain what happened thirty years ago.

HARRY gets up to leave , finishing his tea and throwing his jacket over his shoulder “time I was out of here chief, though that purse snatcher case is going now and the NUGENT told me to help so I’ll go up to that retirement home tonight.”

CHIEF BIGWIG GOOD MAN and Tottenham are playing ARSENAL at home and I’ll see you after the match.and you can give me an update.

HARRY I support NEWCASTLE and drink tea Sarge.

GRAYSTONE arrives at the large iron gates, flashes his badge at the camera and the gates open. Matron Tracy looks up from reception and shouts into the TV room saying “you lot stop making that racket and get yourselves off down the shops, the police have arrived”

The old men are throwing a beach ball across the middle pathway AS SHE ESCORTS the detective down to the fish pond.

TRACY Alright there Roger its detective HARRY GRAYSTONE from the precinct to see you .

Roger looks up from staring into the fish pond and says “merci bercu love I’ll speak to him, in private”

HARRY Hello there Roger, I was sent here by Bigwig TO ask about the druid circle up in the mountain to the North there.

ROGER Alright then wheels me in and we can have a private talk in my room.”

HARRY unclips the brakes and maneuvers around the pond following Matron Tracy up the pathway.

TRACY If that beech ball hits us i’ll confiscate it” she says to one of the East German army officers.

They reach the back door and Tracy walks back behind the reception desk AND HARRY takes a side corridor towards the bedrooms.

HARRY.

ROGER Most of this building is a purpose built extension to the mansion. It’s great to have my bedroom on the ground floor detective.

HARRY unlocks the door and wheels the old superintendent into his single room. It is furnished with wood chip magnolia paint and old oak furniture with a single window and a portable Tv resting on top of a cupboard.

ROGER If you look in that cupboard you’ll find a paper folder with the document.

In the plastic folder is the document, clearly dated for 22 June 1977. “ As you can see , I went up to ringstone round on the summer solstice of our Queen JUBILEE. Me and my SERGEANT found the runestone in the center of the stone circle.

We splashed holy water on the stone and tapped it three times, saying the magic words GALDA PRIME

HARRY STARE’S at the paper with the secret words and says “ you must be joking Roger, did he have a sheet over his head or could he fly around.

ROGER He speaks good English for a 600 year old ghost that was around when king CHARLES was beheaded by the roundheads.

HARRY I’ve got orders to take this postgraduate biologist university student up the mountain and go through this on the exact same day 25 years later.

ROGER VICTOR WILL help you out, you could say he keeps his ear to the ground. When a crime is committed, one of his KIND is awakened.

HARRY That's quite amazing, Roger though I doubt VICTOR the ghost can find a purse snatcher from a bus garage two days ago.

ROGER No you daft wood top, I mean violent crimes, now wheel me back to the pond at the end of the garden so I can feed the fish and be on your way.

They go out of his room and along to reception where Matron Tracy is coming along and says " Alright there Roger , you not involved with anything you shouldn't be are you"

ROGER Don't you worry yourself on my account MATRON just go get the fish food.

They walk back along the central aisle with the ex insurance salesman throwing a beach ball over to the east European army officers and make it to the pond where HARRY clips the breaks on the wheel chair.

Roger Well best of luck detective, but don't worry there haven't been sacrifices on the runestone for hundreds of years; you won't find too many tormented soles waiting you from the undergrowth.

HARRY that is a comfort

ROGER I'll expect you to come back and see me when you go up to the stone circle and let me know what happened.

The next day HARRY makes it to the precinct early and gets to his desk only to have NUGENT call him into the blue room.

The room has royal blue walls and is dominated by a large map of Ipswich with drawing pins sticking in it, a filing cabinet with DEATHS UNCOUNTABLE written on the front and a toaster on a small table next to a large oak desk .

As he closes the heavy door his chief superintendent presses a button under the desk and CARPENTERS music comes through the PA system.

NUGENT: Did you get your assignment from BIGWIG then HARRY. And would you like one OR two slices of toast. The butter is from the Devon and Cornish dairies as per usual.

HARRY He just invited me to his mobile home outside town to watch QPR play Sunderland

NUGENT oh is that all, at a loose end after a trip to the old country I thought he wanted something . Anyway, catch this purse snatcher and I can recommend you to the regional crime squad.

HARRY As for the hand bag thief I'm waiting for forensics reports though I don't hold out much hope there. I'll get the results this afternoon and then I'm meeting this kid for a trek up to the stone circle.

He looks at the map of IPSWICH AND at the filing cabinet and then says " well I better get ready to see this young man "

NUGENT He'll be here all week detectives and you shall be up there on the hill with him all week if needed. Report back to me tomorrow here , and give BIGWIG a ring as soon as you have any positive trace of the ghost named VICTOR. He will decide to move you to a regional area where you'll be able to walk into any police station in the country .

Get a result with the purse snatcher and I'll use my influence for your promotion . I've got the women's institute and the neighborhood watch complaining that the victim was one of them.

HARRY Leaves the blue room and makes it to his desk where there is a message from MATTHEW LANCASTER saying " I'll arrive at IPSWICH rail station at 1500, but I don't want to go up the hills tonight, I want to experience some night life" So he goes down to the forensics lab and gets a report from the bus station where GLORIA'S purse was stolen yesterday.

Dusting for fingerprints was a loss as it's a very public place, and the subject was wearing riding gloves. There was a trace of cement which came off the jacket with a particular content of lime though that would not be worth chasing up. It is at this time that he is paged by the operations room and he leaves the forensics lab and walks to the call center where telephonists receive incoming calls. PC Nina Cherry has a report of another purse snatcher in town center, this time outside the ARNDALE CENTRE.

NINA CHERRY Once again the thief got away on a motorbike, but we have a registration number.

HARRY Have you run it through our database of stolen automobiles?

NINA CHERRY It was stolen six weeks ago while parked outside a small row of shops in York .

HARRY That gives me something to go on, my only lead is to find out what happened during the bike theft. Thanks Nina I owe you one.

HARRY leaves operations and goes back to his desk , where he looks up the crime report on the missing motorbike.

It is a Kawasaki 900 and he calls the flying squad office over in YORK for any additional information. It is then time for him to pick up his guest for the next week from the railway station.

He TEXT'S MATTHEW and says he is on his way and he's to wait for him or catch him at the SUBWAY OPPOSITE THE TICKET OFFICE and then goes back down to the car park and into his ASTRA PANDA CAR.

He starts the car and leaves the station car park turning into the mid afternoon traffic. It is very busy due to town center traffic and he arrives at the train station with ten minutes to spare.

He takes a Pepsi from the kiosk and strolls to the front to get a clear view of incoming passengers as they leave the ticket barriers. At 1500 the train pulls in and the passengers disembark through the gates. He sees them , though there is no sign of MATTHEW and he texts him and goes back into the kiosk.

Matthew phones back saying he arrived early and is looking for a hotel and will call him later.

Back at the station he gets a report from YORK FLYING SQUAD that there was a HELLS ANGEL ROCK FESTIVAL the week of the theft and the venue had hundreds of bikes in attendance for the weekend. There have been no other sightings of the bike and one theory is that it left with others when the HELL'S ANGELS packed up their tents.

He checks on the organizer's website and finds there is a concert staged for tomorrow night.

At this point he goes directly to NUGENT's office and tells him of a strong lead.

NUGENT Right come with me to the BLUE ROOM and we shall decide what to do.

Within the familiar hum of the blue room NUGENT presses the button and THE CARPENTERS ALBUM plays on their tannoy.

HARRY THE CONCERT starts tomorrow night and I'm going to need some manpower if I'm going to check all the bikes.

NUGENT I can only spare PARKER and PRESTAN and a couple of new recruits on this as it's of low priority.

HARRY We can't hold our breath on a result for this one anyway and by the way I have to get hold of this kid i'm chaperoning tonight. I missed him at the train station .

NUGENT You go meet our young friend, and we shall all be grateful.

When HARRY leaves the blue room the CARPENTERS stop playing and he collects his keys from his desk and says goodbye to colleagues.

He leaves the station and phones Matthew saying "where are you now son, I've orders to stick with you until you leave.

LANCASTER Come on down detective, you gonna love the view, I'm in a bar downtown.

HARRY Alright then give me the name of the bar and I'll come straight there.

LANCASTER It's called the RISKY REVUE STRIP CLUB and you're gonna love the atmosphere.

HARRY Alright then Matthew, you are over eighteen so i can't book you but if they refuse to serve a student fresh out of college don't say i didn't warn you. Stay where you are.

HARRY parks his panda car down the street from the notorious strip club and walks the rest of the way. By now the sun is going down as he enters the bar , politely asking the doorman to let him in . The decor is dark black , with black walls and has a platform in the middle

and as he walks past the pool table he recognizes MATTHEW LANCASTER from a dossier

LANCASTER. LANDLADY YOU GONNA STAND THERE WITH YOUR MOUTH OPEN FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE OR ARE YOU GOING TO CALL A VODKA AND ORANGE A SCREWDRIVER

HARRY GRAYSTONE Hello matthew you picked my favorite pub

LANCASTER Let's have another drink HARRY and watch these dirty little scrubbers perform for us.

HARRY ONE DRINK MATE, I think you've had enough for one day. I've got instructions to look after you while you're up here MATTHEW.

LANCASTER Yes and my great great grandfather would have had you flogged for answering him back , and they call it progress.

With that he slips off his bar stool and HARRY catches him before he hits the deck. The barman asks if HARRY can get him out and he agrees , guiding Matthew out the front entrance.

As he gets out the door he bumps into Gloria ratchet holding a placard and she recognises him immediately.

GLORIA DETECTIVE GRAYSTONE, what do you think your doing coming out of this disgraceful den of vice and easy virtue.

HARRY is trying to keep his charge upright and says " it's police business Mrs Ratchet, "

GLORIA No it is not a detective , he's drunk and so are you.

LANCASTER I assure you madam I've only had a few ales. Some people think I'm drunk but I'm positively sober as god is my witness, you can keep your Pontefract cakes and stick them up your " HARRY clamps his hand over the young mans mouth and starts leading him down the road in the direction of his ASTRA PANDA CAR.

Gloria leans her protest BANNER up against the pub wall saying " see that Constance my detective is part of this vice den"

MAVIS You report him to the neighborhood watch liaison officer Constance.

CONSTANCE you bet I will. It's hard enough holding back the tide of commercial exploitation of women and slackening of council licensing policy without our police getting involved.

HARRY makes it to his car and gets MATHEW IN the back seat where he collapses.

HARRY don't fall asleep on me now , I'm in it up to here now. Where is your

Hotel

LANCASTER

It's a small guest house just outside the town center.

HARRY

Those women are dangerous, they could have me demoted back to walking the beat again.

LANCASTER

What those sexy lap dancers, have you been a naughty boy there?

HARRY

guns the engine and points the car out of town center.

HARRY TRUST ME TO BE THIS UNLUCKY. You better come up trumps for me when we go up to the druid circle tomorrow.